

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has made a restriction between the following four groups of inventions:

Group I - Claims 1-31, 37, 38, and 44-47, drawn to an expandable medical device with a locking mechanism.

Group II - Claims 48-53, drawn to an expandable medical device (with a tapered hinge).

Group III - Claims 32-36, drawn to a method of processing an expandable medical device.

Group IV - Claims 39-43, drawn to a method of constructing an expandable medical device.

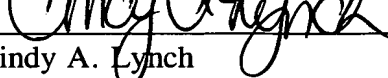
Applicant hereby elects Group II, including Claims 48-53 and new Claims 54-63 drawn to an expandable medical device with a tapered hinges. Claims 1-47 have been canceled. Examination of Claims 48-63 is requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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